

What if treatment by a specialist is necessary?

Outside specialists are available when ordered by the primary care provider and approved by the Utilization Review Department to provide medical treatment. Those specialists are oftentimes associated with one of North Carolina's medical centers and/or major hospitals and provide cardiology, orthopedics, dermatology, oncology, hematology, oral surgery, general surgery, gynecology, and other specialty care. Specialty clinics are also established within facilities to provide services for cardiovascular care, pulmonary care, infectious diseases, endocrine care, maternity care, neurology care and other special needs.

What if there are questions about treatment or medical condition?

Family members and friends are often concerned about the medical condition of an inmate. The Division, like any medical care provider, must abide by the guidelines governing the patient's right to confidentiality of medical records. The inmate may sign a medical release that would authorize proper medical staff to discuss care and provide updates regarding medical condition and treatment.

What efforts are made to control contagious disease?

* All guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and the North Carolina Department of Public Health are followed. New inmates are tested for tuberculosis and syphilis, which is required by state law. They are offered HIV testing (may opt out) upon arrival to prison. Routine testing, including annual TB screening, continues to occur for both staff and inmates. An inmate will be placed in separate housing if he or she poses a health risk to others.